



# Coláiste Muire

*School Newsletter 2026*



### *Note from the Principal*



As we come to the end of the school year it is a fitting time to pause and reflect on the year experienced by all in Coláiste Muire,

We have experienced another extremely busy year in the classroom and in the many extra-curricular activities and events.

I am most grateful to all the students, staff and parents who have made this year so memorable and productive for all our school community. It has been a year of highlights including many successes in so many areas of school life.

We continue to develop our core values, with the launch of Bí Cineálta, Student Ambassadors to ensure students feel part of our school decisions making and every day practice.

Some of the many activities are reflected here in the accounts and photographs. These are a mere glimpse into the many happenings throughout the school year.

It is very heart-warming and genuinely touching to read the reflections on school life from First Years, Transition Years and in particular our Leaving Certificate students as they finish their time with us in Coláiste Muire. The reflections mirror what Coláiste means for all of us, echoing the sentiment that our school is unique and life-affirming.

I am extremely privileged to be Principal and leader of Coláiste Muire and to be immersed in such a thriving, dynamic community.

I wish our Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate and L.C.A. students well in their forthcoming exams. I know you will do your very best.

I wish you all a very happy, restful summer. I thank Staff, Parents, Parents' Association and our Board of Management for their continued support of all our endeavors.

*Jan T. O'Connell*  
Principal



### WE ASKED OUR 6<sup>TH</sup> YEARS TO REFLECT ON THEIR TIME IN COLÁISTE AND GIVE ADVICE TO NEW STUDENTS TO OUR SCHOOL.

## CIARA ENNIS

I believe Coláiste is a school like no other. It's a place where students are actually excited to learn, ask questions and work hard. Yet academics are only a precursor to the amazing skills, experiences and friendships you will make during your time in Coláiste. Mission week was the first taste we got for the colourful life that this school has to offer: performing your own class dances for the school, having a disco in the gp, dress up days and of course the electric Leaving Cert Show to close the whole week. In my opinion Mission Week encapsulates Coláiste's ethos and atmosphere. It's a time where strong community is felt, new and old friendships bond and so much fun is had, all while raising money for a very worthy cause. Another unforgettable experience in Coláiste is, of course, the school musical. We are so lucky to have access to our very own Danlann, amazing staff that put the whole show together, and a committed cast to deliver the most magnificent shows. The musical is a blip in time when we can leave academic stress behind and become absorbed in the world of theatre. There are so many benefits in taking part and I would encourage everyone to give it a try, even if you've never sang a note! The musical gives students the opportunity to reveal secret talents or even discover new ones. It equips you with life long skills that you would never be able to learn from a text book. These are only two memories from a whole library load that shaped my experience in Coláiste over the last six years. This school employs so many opportunities like these to grow and develop as a person. Coláiste is truly a school that will stick with you forever.

## EMILY BARROW

I came to this school knowing not a single person and I'm leaving with friendships and memories that will last a lifetime, I think the most enjoyable aspect in Coláiste for me was the community that you become engrossed in and the people, staff and students, that make it such a warm and welcoming environment Ensuring you have a good support system is by far the best way to settle in, knowing that you can go to someone if your struggling is so important and I'm so grateful to say this school has such a wonderful support system, between the prefects, class directors and year heads, there is always someone that can help and make you feel more comfortable Don't have any regrets, these will be the fastest six years of your life, join clubs enter competitions make friends and just take it all in because the memories you make will be with you for life.





# Reflection

Summer Newsletter 2026

## Goodbye from the SRC CAOIMHE DINAN

After writing and rewriting the start of this piece countless times, I realised the best place to begin is by thanking the teachers who have helped us become who we are today.

Over the last five to six years, our teachers have watched us grow from timid first years into the young women we are now. They have supported, taught and guided us with the patience of saints and bucketloads of humour to match. Every class on the grass, every inside joke, every shared moment and every word of encouragement has helped shape us into more than just Leaving Certificate students.

To Ms. Pound, Ms. Ní Mhuirí, Mr. Maher and Ms. Lydon, thank you for your guidance and support throughout our journey. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Lydon on behalf of the SRC. Your help, encouragement and words of wisdom have meant so much to us.

To Ms. Egan and Mr. Hayes, our guidance counsellors, who are perhaps better known among the Leaving Certs as Mama Bear and Papa Bear, thank you. Your support has extended far beyond CAO deadlines and important dates. It has been found in the reassuring smile in the hallway, the Friday cups of tea and everything in between.

To Chris and Rob, thank you for all the laughs, the dancing and, of course, the cutting of locks off lockers. During my time in the Coláiste, Chris cut seven locks off mine alone. We eventually gave up locking it altogether.

It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as Head Girl this year. I could not have done it without Marykate, Eimear, Lucy and Grace. Thank you for your support, determination and willingness to answer the bat signal whenever needed. On behalf of all the Leaving Certificate students, thank you for everything you have done to make this year so special.

To our parents—the ones dragging us out of bed in the mornings, buying what felt like millions of maths sets and encouraging us every step of the way—thank you. We would not be here without you. Education may begin in school, but it continues at home with the gentle reminders of “Are you studying?”, “You can’t study on your phone” and “Is that actually maths you’re doing?”. You have supported us through every stressful, panicked and “I’m definitely failing this exam” moment.

I would also like to acknowledge how fortunate we are to have received such an education. Education is the foundation of so much in life. As young women, one of the greatest opportunities we can receive is an education. In a world where many women are still denied that right, it is a privilege to have received ours in such a supportive and nurturing environment. I hope we all leave with the confidence to use the voice that education has given us and to advocate for those who cannot yet use theirs.

Looking at my fellow Leaving Certificate students now, it is difficult to believe how quickly the years have passed. The girls I first knew through face masks and frizzy hair now sit before me as confident, independent young women.

There is no denying that our journey together has been unique. We entered the Coláiste during the Covid-19 pandemic, armed with masks, sanitiser and social distancing measures. Despite every effort to keep us apart—from tape on chairs to one-way systems—we found ways to connect. We built friendships through FaceTime calls, shared glances and conversations that somehow managed to flourish despite the circumstances.

Our year group showed remarkable resilience and determination during that period, qualities that have undoubtedly carried us through the years since.

For many of us, Transition Year gave us the chance to make up for lost time. We threw ourselves into musicals, matches, YSI projects and unforgettable experiences. Somehow, we even survived hiking the course of a river in Birr—which was, without doubt, Offaly cold. Without realising it, we were creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Fifth year arrived with all the subtlety of a ton of bricks, although we were fortunate to welcome thirty new friends who joined us for the final stretch of our journey. And then, somehow, we became Leaving Certificate students.

This year has been hectic, enjoyable, stressful and hilarious in equal measure. Through it all, the Leaving Cert area became our sanctuary. It witnessed the hurried unloading of folders each morning, post-exam debriefs, our positive quotes board, Mission Week celebrations and an alarming amount of Christmas tinsel. It has seen it all and, even now, it remains a place filled with memories.

We have come a long way as a year group. When I look around, I see future lawyers, teachers, nurses, doctors, engineers, cosmetologists and mothers. More importantly, I see women who understand the value of integrity, ambition, determination, diligence and strength because I have witnessed those qualities in each and every one of them over the past six years.

When the Leaving Certificate is over and the celebrations have settled, there will come a quiet moment of reflection. In that moment, we will think back on the musical, sunny days on the back pitch, Coláiste Fest, Mission Week and countless other memories. But most of all, we will remember the people—the friends sitting beside us and the teachers who helped us believe we could get through one more essay, one more exam and one more challenge.

That is what makes the Coláiste so special.

One lesson I hope we all carry into the future is the importance of believing in ourselves, standing up for what is right and continuing to show up, even on the difficult days. Life will not always be easy, but the strength that comes from being yourself will carry you forward when things feel uncertain.

From the moment we entered the Coláiste, we became part of something bigger than ourselves. We joined a community filled with opportunities and learned lessons that extended far beyond maths and English. We learned loyalty, ambition, independence and resilience. Every one of us has had a different experience of the Coláiste, but each of us has been shaped by our time within its walls, and there is something very special in that shared experience.

As we leave and begin the next chapter of our lives, I hope we do so with gratitude for everything the Coláiste has given us and confidence in everything that lies ahead.

After all, you can take the girl out of the Coláiste, but you can never take the Coláiste out of the girl.





# Reflection

Summer Newsletter 2026

## Looking back at 1<sup>st</sup> Year **MUIREANN RYAN**

Secondary school is way better than you could ever imagine! I thought it was going to be much harder, but honestly, it isn't that bad. All of the teachers are so nice and helpful, and the older girls are really friendly too.

I was worried at first because I didn't know anyone in my class, but after the first day I had already made so many friends. Everyone is in the same boat as you, so don't worry!

In primary school, Maths was my least favourite subject because I just couldn't understand many of the problems. Now, Maths is probably one of my favourite subjects!

A few tips I have are: smile! I met some of my closest friends with just a smile on the first day of school. Get involved in sports, as they are probably the easiest way to get to know people. Most importantly, don't stress too much about schoolwork (just don't leave it until 11 o'clock at night!).

But most importantly, don't worry about trying to look cool because, honestly, no one looks cool carrying a heavy bag and speed-walking so they're not late for Science!

Good luck!



# Reflection



## LCA Group Reflection

Our journey in LCA began in September 2025. Although we were a small class, we connected straight away and looked forward to the year ahead. The programme offered different subjects to the Junior Certificate, so there was a period of adjustment, but we quickly settled in.

In September, we went surfing and swimming and signed up for different roles in the musical. Before we knew it, Mission Week was upon us and we enjoyed all the fun and fundraising that it involved. As the show approached, we had a lot of work to do painting sets and ensuring the backdrops would be as spectacular as the acting itself.

Classwork continued throughout the year, with our days punctuated by activities both inside and outside the classroom. We enjoyed two very informative historical and art appreciation walks around Ennis, which helped us to appreciate the cultural and historical significance of the town we live in. At another stage, we attended an open day at Ennis College of Further Education. This was very valuable as it gave us an insight into the local options available to us in terms of further education.

In January, we really enjoyed attending the talent show. It was fantastic to watch our schoolmates showcase their talents. In the meantime, as part of the LCA programme, students attended work experience every Friday. This proved very beneficial, allowing us to learn outside the classroom and experience the world of work. We gained experience in hospitality, retail and factory environments and learned a great deal.

As Year One came to an end, we enjoyed several other fantastic days out. In particular, we visited the beach and went for ice-cream. This was a lovely way to finish a busy and fulfilling year. As we faced into our summer exams, having completed several tasks and key assignments, we had high hopes for Year Two.

Year Two began with the same sense of anticipation and excitement. Almost immediately, we began our third work placement and school days became even busier, with the preparation of tasks and larger assignments. However, we were ready for the challenge. In class, we studied film, vocational preparation and guidance, poetry, office administration, IT and much more.

We had a busy first term and were particularly pleased with our excellent results as we looked forward to our final Mission Week in Coláiste. During that term, we also attended an apprenticeship showcase and visited Limerick College of Further Education, both of which were very informative.

The new year brought further preparation for mock examinations, the completion of our Personal Reflection task, and preparation for several task interviews. Each day was filled with assignments, but we remained organised and met every challenge with a strong work ethic.

The final weeks in Coláiste were a mixture of hard work and enjoyment. In particular, we enjoyed a day trip to the Burren, where we visited the Burren Perfumery, Hazel Mountain Chocolate, and finished the day with a meal in Ballyvaughan. It felt like the perfect ending to a wonderful two years.

Two years filled with laughter, learning and personal development both inside and outside the classroom. As we say goodbye to school and the LCA programme, we look forward to the future with gratitude for LCA, our teachers, SNAs, and all those who supported and guided us along the way.

Bye for now!

Anastasiia, Polina, Sidra, Natasha and Obsitu





Transition Year 🔍



# Reflection

# Looking Back on TY AILBHE CURRAN

Saying goodbye to TY is very bittersweet after the incredible year that we have had. Back in September, I was really looking forward to the musical, which did not disappoint and was definitely one of the highlights of my Transition Year experience. It was a wonderful way to begin a jam-packed and enjoyable school year! The trips we went on during TY were so exciting and interesting, and they gave me the perfect opportunity to get to know my classmates better. I really did meet the most incredible people, whom I hope will be friends for life. From exploring the heights of Croke Park to diving into the bog at Killary Adventure Centre, there really was something for everyone!



Work experience was so worthwhile, as it gave us a flavour of everyday working life and allowed us to try out different areas of employment. Getting to experience different subjects this year was brilliant for me, as I now have a much better idea of what I would like to do after school.

I think that throwing yourself headfirst into every opportunity that presents itself is the best way to approach this year. It is a chance to step outside your comfort zone and, while this may be scary at first, you can discover a lot about yourself along the way. Having the opportunity to work as part of a team and learning how to use your time wisely will benefit you hugely in the long run.

Overall, I got so much out of this fantastic experience, and I am very sad to be saying goodbye to all the trips and fun times we shared. However, I know that I will have fabulous memories to look back on for years to come. I feel prepared to face the next two years of school, and I believe that this year has really prepared me for what lies ahead. I would recommend that everyone make the most of this year and enjoy the amazing opportunities while they last!





# TRANSITION YEAR 2025 - 2026





### *Sister Act: The Musical* **FREYA HEDIGAN**



Playing Sister Mary Robert in Sister Act was one of the best experiences of my life. Before the auditions started, I felt super nervous because I had never done anything like this before, but I decided to try my best and step out of my comfort zone. We went through about four rounds of auditions before the cast was announced. When I got the role, I was so excited and honestly couldn't believe it. Throughout rehearsals, I met so many new girls from my year and the year above, and I made great friends who I never would have had the chance to get close to without this opportunity. It really made the whole experience even more enjoyable.

During the show, I learned the importance of teamwork, confidence, and dedication because everyone had to work together to make the performances the best they could be. Performing in so many shows was both exciting and challenging, as you need time for yourself while also being prepared to perform your best every night. With each performance, I grew more confident on stage, and by the final show, I really didn't want it to end.

Overall, being part of Sister Act was an unforgettable experience that taught me a lot. It helped me realise that pushing yourself out of your comfort zone isn't always a bad thing — in fact, it might lead to one of the best experiences of your life.



Since its founding in 1860, Coláiste Muire has cultivated a proud tradition of music and drama that remains at the heart of school life today. Historical records from the school's earliest years highlight the importance placed on the arts, with music instruction and even the purchase of "two magnificent pianos" among the school's first major investments.

The school's commitment to musical theatre continued to grow throughout the twentieth century, with productions such as *The Gondoliers* (1940), *Bohemian Girl* (1951), and *The Arcadian* (1954) taking to the stage. In more recent years, the annual school musical has become one of the highlights of the academic calendar, with memorable productions including *Miss Saigon*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Back to the 80's*, *Grease*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Oliver!*, *Les Misérables*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Cats*. Each year, Leaving Certificate students often speak about the musical as one of the defining experiences of their time in Coláiste Muire.



However, while the cast may take centre stage, the success of the musical depends on the incredible work happening behind the scenes. The production is truly a team effort, with a dedicated group of staff, students, and volunteers working together each year to ensure the show lives up to its outstanding reputation.

Our set crew, led by Ms Hickey and Mr Power, work tirelessly to design and create the impressive stage sets that transform the Dánlann each year. The lights and sound team ensure every performance runs smoothly, managing lighting cues, microphones, and sound throughout each show. Front of house staff welcome and seat packed audiences each night, while the costume, hair, and make-up teams work behind the scenes to ensure every performer looks their very best before stepping on stage.

Beyond the performances themselves, the school musical teaches students many valuable life lessons. It encourages teamwork, dedication, confidence, and resilience, while also giving students the opportunity to form lasting friendships and create unforgettable memories. For many students, being part of the musical becomes much more than simply performing on stage — it becomes a defining part of their school experience.

We are also delighted to announce that preparations are already underway for next year's school musical — *Legally Blonde!* Following the tremendous success of this year's production, excitement is already building for another unforgettable show.





# Reflection

Summer Newsletter 2026

## Greenschools Update

### ANZEL LABUSCHAGNE

An inside look to what our amazing Green Schools committee has accomplished this year. Not only have we been able to make a difference within our school community, but also to outside areas. We started off the year with our annual trip to Ballyalla lake where we conducted a litter pickup. A small act of making a difference to our local environment, yet so insightful to all the girls who took part. Following along with Mr. Murphy's help to set up an air quality team in our school. As a team we have recorded data across areas in our school community as well as that of our town. We used two small AirBeam devices to measure the air quality and with our data, we are able to find new ways in which we can improve the air we breathe. We also introduced some new friends to our school. Firstly starting off with Kevin, the hungry battery eater. As a part of the Batteries for Barretstown initiative, we were able to collect a large number of batteries from our students and staff. We are so grateful for everyone's participation as these batteries will be going towards a good cause. Our other friends are hungry too, not for batteries but for wooden cutlery. We introduced two more friends to the community, Freddy and Finola. These bright purple bins were set out so that students could dispose of their wooden forks, knives and spoons. The cutlery will then be used for compost and fuelling purposes. So keep feeding Freddy and Finola forks! Speaking of composting matters, we also did some planting around our school. We managed to plant some lovely foxgloves and various other plants that will help to increase the wildlife biodiversity within the school. As a special day out for the Green Schools committee, we were able to visit the Rediscovery Centre in Dublin. There, we took part in a design workshop, had a tour of the buildings, and learnt the great history of how it came to be. The Rediscovery Centre has brought so many innovative ideas home with the girls, which we hope to incorporate in future projects. It truly was an inspiring trip. Last but not least, the Green Schools went online! We now have an Instagram and TikTok social media account where you can follow along on our journey, learn new ways in which you can make a difference, and enjoy a good laugh. Simply search up greenschools\_colaistemuire and join in on the adventure!



# Awards

## Summer Newsletter 2026

We were honoured to welcome back two of our outstanding past pupils, Carina Rosengrave and Caitríona Ní Riordáin, to present this year's Academic and Sports Awards. A heartfelt thank you to Carina and Caitríona for sharing their time, experiences and words of encouragement with our students. Carina inspired students to pursue their dreams with determination and confidence, while Caitríona spoke about the importance of teamwork, friendship and belonging.

Both speakers encouraged students to stay active and to appreciate the privilege of movement and participation in sport. Their messages were both inspiring and empowering, reminding students of the value of perseverance, community and self-belief. We are incredibly grateful to Carina and Caitríona for returning to the Coláiste and continuing to inspire the next generation of students. Thank you.

### *Student of the Year* **CIARA PUNCH**

Throughout her six years in Coláiste, Ciara has made an outstanding contribution to everyday school life and to our wider school community. She has consistently been a positive role model among her peers through her commitment to sport, her attitude towards learning, and the kindness and respect she shows to everyone around her. Ciara's positivity, dependability and willingness to support others have left a lasting impact on both students and staff alike.

Well done to all our nominees for this award: Fatima Ghazi, Sophie Culleton, Aoibhín Collins, Mary Kate Cregan, Clíona Jones, Ciara Ennis, Sidra Koutou!

### *Companionship Award* **MARY-KATE CREGAN**

Find below a summary of some of the reasons Mary-Kate's classmates voted for her for this award!

"Mary Kate is a kind, caring and selfless person who always thinks of others before herself. She makes a genuine effort to ensure everyone feels included, represented and respected. No matter the day, she always has a smile for everyone. A smile that makes even the toughest days brighter.

She takes the time to get to know people and greets everyone by name. Whether you are in her friend group or not, she always checks in to make sure you are okay. Her kindness and concern for others are completely genuine.

Throughout our years in school, she has been a constant source of support, fun and positivity. She makes people feel valued and comfortable, and her warm personality draws people in effortlessly. She has helped make our school community a more enjoyable, welcoming and memorable place for so many."

Congratulations, Mary Kate, on this very well-deserved award.

### *Sportsperson of the Year* **MOLLY POTTER**

Molly has been an outstanding representative of sport in Coláiste Muire throughout her time here, showing incredible dedication, determination and leadership both on and off the field. Her positivity, commitment and work ethic make her a fantastic role model for younger students.

A huge well done also to our other amazing nominees who have made fantastic contributions to sport in our school:

Sophie Culleton, Ava O'Connor, Ivanna Costelloe, Ria Meaney, Sadbh Griffin, Sofia Lynch, Sadie Shaloo and Kate Jones.





Academic Awards 🔍





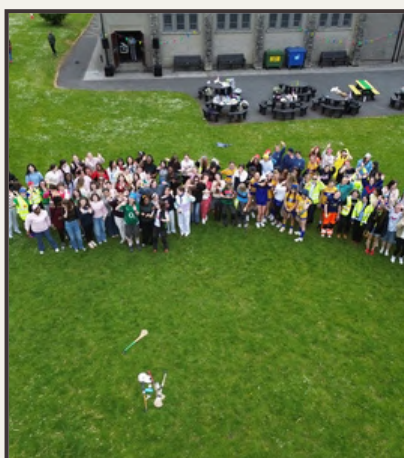
Sports Awards 🔍



Student wellbeing remained a key focus in Coláiste Muire throughout the year, with a wide range of initiatives designed to support, connect and engage our students. While major events such as Mission Week, Coláiste Fest and the unveiling of our new library played an important role in fostering a positive school community, many other wellbeing initiatives continued successfully throughout the year.

Our Lunch Club provided a welcoming space for students to relax, chat, play games and make new friends. Breakfast Club, kindly sponsored by Dunnes Stores Ennis, ran every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, offering tea, toast and a friendly environment where students could start their day in a positive way.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of lunchtime activities, including Knitting Club, our lunchtime Trad Group and Plé agus Tae. These activities encouraged students to develop new skills, explore their interests and build meaningful connections with their peers. We are proud of the strong culture of care and inclusion within our school and look forward to continuing to provide opportunities that support the wellbeing of all members of our school community.



## MISSION WEEK



Mission Week 2026 was a huge success this year, with every year group taking to the stage to perform a lunchtime show for the rest of the school community. Our 1st Years certainly brought the entertainment factor, delighting audiences with their enthusiasm and talent!

Throughout the week, students and staff embraced the fun and spirit of Mission Week through a variety of activities, including Wacky Accessory Day, bake sales, teacher dress-up and Leaving Cert dress-up. The week concluded with the much-anticipated annual Leaving Cert Show, and what a performance our Leaving Cert students gave us! Their energy, creativity and commitment made for a fantastic finale to a memorable week.

A sincere thank you to all of our students and staff who helped make Mission Week so special. Through their generosity and participation, we raised vital funds for our sister school in Kenya. Your support will make a real difference, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed.

## NEW LIBRARY



At the beginning of this school year, we were delighted to officially unveil our newly refurbished library. Thank you to Elaine Feeny, poet and novelist, who visited to speak to our students and officially open the library. The space has been transformed with new furniture, an extensive selection of new books, and an updated borrowing system, making it easier than ever for students to check books in and out.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our Parents' Association for their generous contribution, which helped us add the finishing touches to this wonderful facility. Their support has played an important role in creating a welcoming and inspiring environment for our students.

We are extremely proud of the space we have created and look forward to fostering a love of reading among our students for many years to come. The library is already proving to be a valuable resource for learning, creativity and enjoyment, and we are excited to see it continue to grow and thrive.

## COLÁISTE FEST



Although Coláiste Fest was a smaller event this year, it was no less memorable. Our Leaving Cert students made the most of their final Friday in school by coming together for a fantastic celebration on the back pitch.

The afternoon was filled with fun and laughter, with a DJ providing the soundtrack for the event, while face painting, an ice-cream truck and a variety of activities ensured there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The event was a fitting way to mark the end of their school years and highlighted the strong sense of community and friendship that makes Coláiste Muire such a special place.



# Sports

## Summer Newsletter 2026

# TENNIS



Coláiste Muire entered highly competitive panels at both U14 and U16 levels in the Munster Schools Tennis Championships this year. Both squads represented the school with excellent sportsmanship, recording notable victories against top-tier opposition across the province. While they ultimately fell just short of the final stages, the campaign provided invaluable competitive experience. We encourage all players to keep working on their game over the summer as we look forward to building on these performances next year.



# GAELIC FOOTBALL

Gaelic football remains one of the most popular extra-curricular activities within the school, with high participation numbers allowing us to field multiple teams at 1st Year, U14.5, Junior A, Junior B, and Senior grades. Both our Junior and Senior squads enjoyed highly competitive campaigns, playing an attractive and cohesive style of football throughout the year.

We commend all players for their commitment and encourage them to continue developing their skills with both school and club panels as they prepare to represent Coláiste Muire with pride again next season.





# Sports

## Summer Newsletter 2026

# ATHLETICS

The athletics calendar commenced with a highly successful cross-country season, which saw all of our competing panels secure medals at the Clare Cross Country Championships. At provincial level, our Intermediate team captured Munster gold, with Siobhan Healy delivering an outstanding individual performance to finish third, while our Minor girls secured a Munster bronze medal to qualify for the All-Ireland Cross Country Finals, where they represented the school with immense pride. The track and field season was equally fruitful, with numerous athletes recording personal bests and securing medals at the North Munster and Munster Championships. Special mention must go to the two students who qualified for the All-Ireland Schools Track and Field Finals: Transition Year student Faye Mannion, who won the Senior Girls 800m national title, and third-year student Aisling Kelly, who claimed a silver medal in the Intermediate Girls 800m. We congratulate all of our athletes and coaches on an exemplary year of competition.



# CAMOGIE

Coláiste Muire has firmly cemented its reputation as one of the premier camogie schools in Munster. Our Junior squad enjoyed a historic run, capturing the Munster title and progressing all the way to the All-Ireland Final, where they performed heroically before losing out to a strong Kilkenny side.

Meanwhile, our Senior team sustained their dominance on the local stage by securing their fifth consecutive Clare Senior County "A" title with a clinical victory over St. Caimin's in the final. At junior levels, our 1st and 2nd Year teams produced some highly encouraging performances. The skill level displayed by these younger panels promises a very bright future for our senior squads in the years to come.



# Sports

## Summer Newsletter 2026

# SOCCER



The Senior soccer panel enjoyed a spectacular start to their season last summer, travelling to Spain to represent both Coláiste Muire and Ireland at the prestigious international MadCup Competition in Madrid. Testing themselves against elite global opposition was an invaluable experience that stood to the squad during their domestic campaign, where they played excellent football before bowing out at the quarter-final stage of the Munster Schools Cup.

Our Junior and 1st Year teams also displayed immense technical ability in a series of tightly contested fixtures, providing a strong foundation as we look to progress further in the Munster Cup competitions next year.

# VOLLEYBALL

The 2025/2026 academic year will go down as the most successful in the history of Coláiste Muire volleyball, following an unprecedented clean sweep of "A" All-Ireland titles. The historic run began in December, when our Senior A team secured a commanding 3-0 victory over St. Louis Carrickmacross. This was soon followed by success in the knockout Senior Cup, where the girls defeated Rockford Manor, Dublin, 3-1.

Our U16 squad maintained their unbeaten streak to claim a fourth consecutive U16 A national title with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Presentation Kilkenny. Concluding this remarkable season, the Junior A team defeated St. Raphael's of Loughrea in their final, completing their entire campaign without dropping a single set. We congratulate all the players and coaches involved, and look forward to defending these titles next year.



# SWIMMING

Our swim team began the season in style, debuting new official school gear with matching Coláiste Muire swim tops and hats. The panel went on to deliver excellent performances at the Munster Schools Gala, with a high volume of swimmers achieving new personal best times. Facing an elite standard of provincial competition, our swimmers performed remarkably well to secure numerous top-10 and top-15 finishes. The season concluded with the presentation of the Senior Swimmer of the Year perpetual trophy, kindly sponsored by Ennis Swimming Club, which was awarded to a very deserving Roisín Hogan.



# BASKETBALL

Our U16 basketball team led the way this season during an extraordinary campaign that took them all the way to the All-Ireland Final. En route to the national showcase, the girls overcame twelve different opponents, securing both the Regional and North Munster titles.

Our Senior squad also enjoyed strong form, progressing through the regional rounds before bowing out after a hard-fought North Munster final. Additionally, our 1st and 2nd Year panels represented the school with distinction all year, showing immense growth in their fundamental skills. Following the collective success of this season, Coláiste Muire will compete in the prestigious 'A' division next year. We look forward to seeing all players continue to develop their game.



### RUGBY



Coláiste Muire entered competitive panels into both the Munster Senior and Junior Cup competitions this season, while also fielding a squad in the Senior Rugby 7s tournament. Rugby continues to grow in popularity within the school, a trend supported by our recent initiative where all first-year students participated in an introductory rugby taster session.



It was particularly encouraging to see so many students take to the pitch to represent the school in a sport they had never played before. We take great pride in providing these pathways for our students to explore new disciplines and cultivate new sporting passions.

### HOCKEY

We have continued to build our hockey team this year, with a strong focus on developing indoor hockey skills during Friday training sessions. Sincere thanks must go to our student coaches, who have led by example and shown great leadership in mentoring fellow peers. We aim to expand our hockey programme further over the coming terms, with the ultimate goal of entering formal schools' indoor competitions next year.

### BADMINTON

Our badminton panels maintained a dedicated training schedule this year, focusing on both singles and doubles disciplines. While the teams did not make it to the Clare schools' tournament on this occasion, the weekly sessions were highly beneficial and enjoyed by all involved. With a solid foundation of practice now established, the school intends to enter teams into the Clare Championships next season.



# Music

## Summer Newsletter 2026

Music continues to be a vibrant and cherished part of life at Coláiste Muire, enriching both our school community and the wider local area. This year, our talented students performed in a variety of settings, sharing their gifts and bringing joy to others. Highlights included our Senior students delivering a beautiful Christmas Carol Service for the staff and patients of St. Joseph's, while another group of musicians and dancers travelled to Carrigoran Nursing Home to perform for residents and staff. Within the school, our singers and instrumentalists played a key role in important occasions such as the Beginning of Year Mass, Graduation Mass, Carol Service, and other school events.





# Parent's Association

Interested in joining the team?  
Send an email to find details of upcoming meetings!  
colaistemuirepa@gmail.com

## Summer Newsletter 2026

# WHO WE ARE



The Parents' Association Committee meets throughout the year to discuss how best parents can support the school community. This year Eleanor Lyons continued in her role as Chairperson for the 2nd year, along with Anna O'Sullivan (Treasurer) and Caroline Cunningham (Secretary).

As we reach the end of another school year we want to thank the parents who joined the team this year and also say goodbye to a number of parents that have generously supported the team over the years. We wish Sharon Whelan and Tracy Toher well as their daughters move onto their next chapter.

We welcome any interested parents to attend next year's Annual General Meeting in September 2026 to learn more about what we do and how you can get involved. So keep an eye out for the notification closer to the time!

**Join Now**

Scan the QR code or go to our website



<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/colaistemuirepa>

## HOW WE FUNDRAISE

### Weekly Lotto

Every week Lotto Members can win our guaranteed Lucky Dip €20 prize and be in with a chance to win the Jackpot (up to €2,000) if they match 4 numbers.

This year, along with weekly prize winners, we also had three lucky Jackpot Winners of over €1,000 each.

Scan the QR code below if you'd like to sign up for the school lotto.

## WHAT WE DO

### Annual General Meeting

On 7th October 2025, we hosted our Parents' Association Annual General Meeting. We received a presentation on Leaving Certificate Student Academic Performance and College selection from Eilish Egan (Career Guidance) and Eleanor (Chairperson) provided us with an update on the PA Financial reports and sponsorship plans for the upcoming year.

### Sister Act The Musical

As is the tradition, the PA were involved in providing food and snacks for the cast of the fantastic Musical in November. Thanks again to the parents who helped with food donations, food preparation and interval refreshments.

### Library

A donation from the PA was utilised by the school for the newly refurbished Library. Library Signage was installed late last year and Book Vouchers were provided to students to promote World Book Day earlier this year.

### Green Schools Donation

This year the PA are donating to the Green Schools Team to purchase gardening equipment, plants, signage, bird feeders and seed to enhance biodiversity on the School Grounds.

### Basketball Kit

The PA are also sponsoring new kits for the Basketball Team which will be in place for the upcoming academic year.

### Graduation Ceremony

We recently supported the teachers with the LC Graduation Ceremony, providing a photobooth for students to capture memorable moments with their friends and teachers and also providing refreshments for family members in the School after the Ceremony.

### Lotto Winners

This year, along with weekly prize winners, we also had three lucky Jackpot Winners of over €1,000 each. Click here if you wish to join the Lotto and be in with a chance to win the weekly prize and the Jackpot.

